(c) The Committee had submitted its report in February, 2005 and the main recommendations of the report include:-

(i) Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.

(ii) Development along the coastal stretches based on demarcation of setback lines taking into account the vulnerability of the coast to natural and manmade hazards.

(iii) Inclusion of the ocean zone in coastal management strategy.

(iv) Setting up of institutional structures to address the policy and legal issues.

(v) Programme for pollution abatement of coastal water.

(vi) Identification and mapping of the coastal eco-sensitive areas such as mangroves, corals, turtle breeding areas, etc. for their conservation and protection.

(vii) Development of bioshields along the coastal stretches.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has accepted the broad recommendations of the Report and has taken steps for implementation of the recommendations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Financial assistance for protection of forest land

1238. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have requested for financial assistance from the Central Government for protection of their forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the fund requested by the State Governments;

(c) whether in some of the States land under forest cover has come down;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. Central assistance is being provided to all States, and Union Territories for protection of forests from fires, illicit fellings and strengthening of infrastructure of State Forest Departments under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme on cost sharing basis. A Statement showing the State-wise demands and the central assistance released to States & Union Territories under the scheme during last four financial years is at Statement I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir As per State of Forest Report, 2003 brought out by Forest Survey of India, the forest cover has come down in some States as indicated in the statement at Statement-II (*See* below). Reasons for this decrease in forest cover are shifting cultivation, encroachments, felling of short rotation tree crops, diversion of forest area for developmental activities.

(e) Steps taken by the Government for protection of forests are as under:—

(i) **Administrative measures:** Patrolling of forest area, Network of Checkposts, Mechanism of Transit Permits for movement of forest produce, Control and regulation of saw mills, Restrictions on movement of timber in North-Eastern Region as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(ii) **Legal measures:** Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

(iii) **Management measures:** Working of forest according to approved Working Plans, involvement of local people in protection and management.

(iv) **Financial measures:** Financial assistance to the State/Union Territories under Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established. (National Parks, Sanctuaries, Project tiger areas, Project Elephant areas, Biosphere reserves etc.)

Statement-I

Funds released during the period 2002-03 to 2005-06 under CSS: Integrated Forest Protection Scheme to State/UTs

Rs. in lakhs

Sl. No.	State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Demand	Rleased	Demand	Rleased	Demand	Released	Demand	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Other States									
1	Andhra Pradesh	140.494	129	357.5	100	332	290	308	175
2	Bihar	Nil	Nil	145.321	Nil	239.91	118.62	248.4	128.88
3	Chhattisgarh	366	150	450.95	100	800	482.24	1600	104.31
4	Goa	57.52	49.42	92.35	70	80.7	Nil	57.9	Nil
5	Gujarat	104.54	75	301.45	50	733	209.44	600	192
6	Haryana	70	70	80.22	59.22	203.13	139.62	185.35	75
7	Himachal Pradesh	197.3	57.4	180.95	75	200	57.85	500	180.186
8	Jammu and Kashmir	356.7	74.25	400	109.78	533	193.84	400	Nil
9	Jharkhand	90	81.17	270.46	130	500.28	409.1	559.58	75
10	Karnataka	77	77	117.82	75	200	60	345.54	119.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Kerala	152	83.5	400	150	668	225	956	125
12	Madhya Pradesh	158.5	158.5	500.7	140	650	444.75	1608	125
13	Maharashtra	219.3	188.92	181.51	50	360	64.17	Nil	Nil
14	Orissa	100	100	200	100	250	40.44	250	110
15	Punjab	Nil	Nil	104.35	Nil	235.6	101.2	197.35	Nil
16	Rajasthan	170.8	55	203.3	Nil	200	15.27	200	100
17	Tamil Nadu	100	100	371.08	110	533.3	295.52	485	150
18	Uttar Pradesh	250	80	357.25	140	266.67	159.69	282.75	49.25
19	Uttaranchal	100	98.07	650	150	450	429.81	805.8	150
20	West Bengal	120	120	256.515	100	335.31	266.43	294.68	140
	TOTAL	2830.154	1747.23	5621.726	1709	7770.9	4000	9884.35	1999.256
	NE States								
1	Assam	376.6	376.6	804.5	130	600	70	1000	400
2	Arunachal Pradesh	426.06	426.02	Nil	Nil	422.9	141.68	802.25	274.66
3	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	400	154.3	460.9	128.8
4	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	462.83	Nil	821.46	80

5	Mizoram	574.12	574.12	593.42	267.78	429.85	422.13	500	300
6	Nagaland	1289.84	407.47	512.22	200	399.12	282.03	509.36	54
7	Sikkim	358.63	358.63	421.26	102	795.46	80	640.88	Nil
8	Tripura	692.13	692.13	Nil	Nil	800.43	168.55	1005.73	16
	TOTAL	3717.38	2834.97	2331.4	699.78	4310.59	1318.69	5740.58	1253.46
1	A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	100	Nil	Nil	25	Nil	Nil
2	Chandigarh	7.1	Nil	4.2	Nil	5	8	4	Nil
3	D & N Haveli	Nil	Nil	50.77	Nil	80.07	40	32.4	8.26
4	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	25.03	15	Nil	Nil
5	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	New Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	TOTAL	7.1	Nil	154.97	Nil	110.1	88	36.4	8.26
	GRAND TOTAL	6554.634	4582.2	7953.126	2408.78	12081.49	5406.69	15624.93	3260.98

Statement-II

Forest cover in Various States and UTs

Forest Survey of India (FSI) carries out biennial assessment of forest cover of the country by remote sensing and publishes the results in 'State of Forest Report (SFR)', since 1987. As per the latest SFR (2003), the following States/UTs have shown a decrease in forest cover.

(Area in km^2)

State/UT	2003 Assessment	2001 Assessment	Change
Andhra Pradesh	44,419	44,637	-218
Arunachal Pradesh	68,019	68,045	-26
Bihar	5,558	5,720	-162
Chhattisgarh	55,998	56,448	-450
Gujarat	14,946	15,152	-206
Haryana	1,517	1,754	-237
Himachal Pradesh	14,353	14,360	-7
Karnataka	36,449	36,991	-542
Madhya Pradesh	76,429	77,265	-836
Maharashtra	46,865	47,482	-617
Orissa	48,366	48,838	-472
Punjab	1,580	2,432	-852
Rajasthan	15,826	16,367	-541
Lakshdweep	23	27	-4
TOTAL	430,348	435,518	-5,170

Separation of National Parks Service from Indian Forest Service

1239. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to separate the National Parks Services from Indian Forest Service;